Thursday, January 15, 2015

from: EDSIG Board of Directors
to: EDSIG Membership

Let us begin by thanking you for your support of EDSIG – some of you for many years and new members as well. We write to you today after our successful 2014 conference in Baltimore with some unexpected but exciting news about EDSIG's commitment to annual conferences.

For many years, EDSIG and its membership have played an important role in supporting ISECON. That conference has drawn computing researchers and educators from around the world to share their knowledge and ambition for teaching generations of computing professionals through junior college, college and university curricula and programs. EDSIG's work through this conference has sponsored not only a venue for sharing theory, practice and concerns for teaching, but opportunities for computing academics to publish and sustain their credentials and in many cases achieve promotion through the ranks of faculty in their institutions and the profession.

Since the early 1980s the ISECON conference has benefitted from the tireless efforts of DPMA's Education Foundation and FITE who have managed conference venue arrangements: contracting and coordinating the meeting facilities, banquet and social activities, and administering the registration and business accounting that brought together the "platform" upon which our academic conference activities depended. FITE's arrangement with EDSIG has been set in contract negotiated and signed every one or two years during our long collaboration.

As the current contract was set to expire in December 2014, FITE presented a proposal for a successor contract in mid-October. The terms of their proposal included several far-reaching changes in the balance of financial responsibilities and the degree of autonomy that EDSIG has enjoyed in the design and conduct of the conference planning, programming and management. Our understanding of FITE's motivation for change was their wish to achieve a greater assurance in the profitability of the conference. That motivation is consistent with their commitment as a foundation to grants and scholarships that support IT education. In reviewing the proposed contract the EDSIG board determined that the changes, although furthering FITE's concerns for conference profitability, imposed constraints on EDSIG's planning and program management options that would not well serve EDSIG's primary concerns of supporting the academic

professionals who are the engine of IT education. EDSIG and FITE were unable to come to a mutually satisfactory agreement. As a result, EDSIG is no longer organizationally involved in ISECON and is launching an independent and new annual academic conference to focus on supporting the faculty and teaching of computing. EDSIG's conference committee of volunteers who have underpinned ISECON for these many years have moved en masse into this new conference effort.

In the course of the partnership between FITE and EDSIG in the conduct of ISECON the conference name itself was trademarked to protect it and that trademark is owned by FITE. Therefore the new EDSIG Conference will have a new name. In tandem with the new EDSIG Conference EDSIG will continue hosting CONISAR, the Conference on Information Systems Applied Research in 2015.

EDSIG's identity and its legacy of contributing to computing education manifest in EDSIG's publications: the shared proceedings of past ISECON's, all the proceedings of CONISAR and the EDSIG journals: ISEDJ, JISAR and JISE, our flagship journal. EDSIG journals have long been listed in *Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities*. This new EDSIG Conference will be the exclusive channel for paper submission, review and ISEDJ publication and for best paper fast tracking to JISE. CONISAR will remain the exclusive channel for paper submission, review, and JISAR publication.

We are organizing and planning the launch of the new EDSIG Conference for November 1-4, 2015 in Wilmington, NC. It is reasonable to expect that FITE will endeavor to sustain the ISECON brand with a conference function of its own in 2015. EDSIG hopes you will see your way clear to support our new generation EDSIG Conference and CONISAR in 2015. The call for participation will go out early in 2015; submissions by June 15, 2015, are eligible for paper awards, submissions by July 15, 2015, will be considered for journal referral to ISEDJ or JISAR; and submissions by August 15, 2015, will be accepted for consideration of publication in the EDSIG Conference or CONISAR proceedings. Accepted papers in final publication format must be received by September 15, 2015. All authors of submitted papers are required to participate in the peer review process.

We are committed to keeping you informed of the conference and the program preparations as they emerge from the organizing and planning activities already in progress. In the end you and your colleagues *are* EDSIG! And we hope your experience with EDSIG's conference efforts over these many years will lead you to support the new EDSIG Conference and CONISAR going forward. Our goal is to serve you and the computing education community with the most efficient, inclusive, academically sound and enjoyable experience possible – *onward and upward!*

Visit the EDSIG website for more news, updates and resources: **http://www.edsig.org**